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**Sent:** Thur 3/15/2012 1:59:55 PM

**Subject:** Soil OK in Riverside County Park, cause for concern in township ball fields

Soil OK in Riverside County Park, cause for concern in township ball fields  
BY MICHAEL LAMENDOLA  
NorthJersey.com  
Thursday, March 15, 2012

[http://www.northjersey.com/news/142736075\\_Park\\_s\\_soil\\_tests\\_safe.html](http://www.northjersey.com/news/142736075_Park_s_soil_tests_safe.html)

The EPA and Lyndhurst have both conducted testing in parklands just adjacent to river mile 10.9 in conjunction with the elevated contamination results from the Passaic River. While the EPA has determined no toxin levels in Riverside County Park to be above elevated stages for human health concern or remediation, samples taken by the township are showing elevated levels of at least one toxin on its Little League fields.

The EPA took samples from Riverside County Park in late January after it had conducted similar testing last fall after Hurricane Irene in North Arlington, in which results showed acceptable levels of contamination that didn't pose a public threat.

"We sampled the North Arlington locations because when our team went out after the hurricane and did reconnaissance, we noticed sediment deposited there. We didn't collect samples from every flooded

property because that's not probable to do," said Kleusner. "The Lyndhurst sampling coincided with the test results of the river."

Congressman Bill Pascrell said it was a relief that the testing came back negative at the park, but the EPA needed to focus on cleaning up the contaminated mudflats in the river.

"Given the results, we appeared to have dodged a bullet," said Pascrell.

Mayor Richard DiLascio said due diligence test results of the Little League fields yielded no dioxins, PCBs, pesticides or metals, but found elevated readings of Benzo[a]pyrene or BaP, a polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon and probable human carcinogen as classified by the EPA. Representatives from the town's environmental engineers, Remington and Vernick, said levels of BaP ranged from .046 to .483 parts per million. The higher levels are in excess of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's residential and non-residential soil remediation standard of .2 parts per million.

DiLascio said further delineation testing, which will test soil samples six inches in depth, will be conducted and when those tests come back, the town's engineers will know whether additional testing is necessary or if an action plan can be prepared.

"No recreation activity has or will be scheduled for the fields until it is appropriate," said DiLascio. "Little League officials have been notified of the situation and will be kept informed as the process continues."

Results from the fields show the elevated levels of BaP present at the lowest elevations closest to the river and as results came back from spots closer to Riverside Avenue and the tennis courts, the presence of BaP lowered to a point where there was none detected

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